

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL HEALTH AND HOUSING TASK FORCE MEETING**  
**BOARDROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE,**  
**411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC**  
**WEDNESDAY, 2021-FEB-10, AT 3:03 P.M.**

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Present: Councillor Bonner, Chair  
Councillor Hemmens  
Insp. Lisa Fletcher, A/OIC, Nanaimo Detachment RCMP (joined electronically 3:04 p.m.)  
Jason Harrison, Executive Director, Mid-Island Branch, Canadian Mental Health Association (joined electronically)  
Heidi Hartman, BC Housing (joined electronically)  
Anita LaHue, Director Partnerships and Strategic Initiatives Strategic Services Branch, Service Delivery Division, Ministry of Social Dev and Poverty Reduction (joined electronically 3:31 p.m.)  
Signy Madden, Executive Director, United Way (joined electronically)  
Councillor Emmy Manson, Snuneymuxw First Nation (joined electronically 3:26 p.m.)  
John McCormick, Executive Director, Nanaimo Region John Howard Society (joined electronically)  
Lisa McHaffie, Service Manager, Service Canada (joined electronically)  
Kim Smythe, CEO, Chamber of Commerce (joined electronically)  
Marina White, Snuneymuxw First Nation (joined electronically 3:56 p.m.)

Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer  
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services  
B. Corsan, Director, Community Development  
L. Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning  
F. Farrokhi, Manager, Communications (joined electronically)  
K. Kronstal, Social Planner  
S. Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer  
J. Vanderhoef, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE SPECIAL HEALTH AND HOUSING TASK FORCE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Special Health and Housing Task Force Meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m.

Insp. L. Fletcher joined the meeting electronically at 3:04 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Special Health and Housing Task Force Meeting held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Thursday 2020-NOV-26, at 2:17 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

4. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Dr. Alina Turner, CEO, HelpSeeker, PowerPoint Presentation re: Health and Housing Action Plan

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Introduced by Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning.

Dr. Alina Turner, CEO, HelpSeeker, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- Review of framework for action:
  - Two Commitments: Truth and Reconciliation, and Challenging Discrimination and Stigma
  - Six Priority Areas: System Coordination, Diverse Housing Options, Leadership and Engagement, Prevention, Complex Needs Capability, and Poverty Reduction
  - Need to provide detail while recognizing disruptions will occur
  - Investment needs: 2021 immediate need \$18.5 million, five-year total \$62.1 million
- Success of the action plan will require incremental but consistent action
- Tackling the plan in increments to create momentum and a starting point
- Provided diagram of systems approach and discussed roles of each component
- During the governance lab there was a preference to create a new arms-length social development entity focused on Health and Housing Action Plan (HHAP) implementation and coordination
- The entity's function may be incubated in the United Way with the goal over time to become independent
- The Systems Planner Organization's role would be funding coordination, capacity building, partnerships and innovation, homeless system planning, and leadership and accountability
- Coalition on Health and Housing should ensure its role is correlated with the System Planner Organization (SPO) to ensure synergy (specifically regarding Services Provider Coordination)
- Next Steps:
  - Work towards coordinated access has begun and can be amplified
  - Building trust and a resilient governance structure
  - Ensure the "buy-in" of all members/organizations

Task Force discussion took place regarding methods for communicating/socializing information to the community.

Councillor E. Manson joined the meeting electronically at 3:26 p.m.

Dr. Turner, CEO, HelpSeeker, suggested that the first step is the hardest part and to take manageable steps to get started.

A. LaHue joined the meeting electronically at 3:31 p.m.

5. REPORTS:

(a) Health and Housing Action Plan Implementation

Introduced by Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning.

Councillor Hemmens noted that recommendations made would be put forward as recommendations to Council at a future Council meeting.

It was moved and seconded that the Health and Housing Task Force recommend that Council endorse the draft Health and Housing Action Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

Task Force discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Feedback regarding the next steps and concerns of the structure becoming too City centralized
- Clarification regarding the current recommendation which states the City will facilitate the establishment of an SPO

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, spoke regarding the role of City Staff in facilitating and coordinating conversations around the structure of the SPO and the incubator phase/organization. She noted that the intention behind the assistance planning organization was not for one organization to fund it and Staff require Council direction to approach other organizations regarding funding.

- Potentially establishing an ad hoc working group to implement the HHAP and develop the structure and governance of the SPO
- Ensuring incorporation of all Members' points
- Clarification regarding the establishment of the SPO
- The work being done during the incubation phase is intended to be passed on to the SPO once established
- Clarifying who owns the HHAP and ensuring community support
- Identifying the stakeholders to work collectively moving this forward
- The value of the Health and Housing Task Force (HHTF) has been to bring major stakeholder/players together
- Need high level decision makers at the table to gain as much system influence as possible for the SPO
- Imbedding work locally to grow capacity and not relying on consultants
- Ad hoc working group being community members

Dr. Turner, CEO, HelpSeeker, noted that the City of Kelowna had implemented a three month transition group to implement and launch their SPO.

M. White joined the meeting electronically at 3:56 p.m.

Task Force discussion continued. Highlights included:

- Interim step needed to create a transition group (with a short mandate) to create and implement the SPO
- Task a small group to structure the SPO in approximately 12 weeks
- Acknowledge timelines and busy schedules of people being asked to become involved in the implementation group
- Difference between Staff calling people for feedback and actually convening a conversation with a group of people
- Having agreement on the structure of the SPO and shared authorship between shared entity and the City of Nanaimo
- Staff recommendation articulates initial actions but this conversation is delving deeper to ensure details are included
- Acknowledging the work set out in Dr. Turner's report as guiding principles to set up a working group to define the governance structure of the SPO
- Process for appointing representative to a transition group

Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services, explained the intent of the wording "Staff facilitate" in the recommendation was to help move forward with the next steps. He noted that if Council provided direction to Staff on 2021-FEB-22 to create a working group, it would be a less formal structure with information being captured and provided back to Council in a report.

Task Force discussion continued. Highlights included:

- Role of seeking funding from other partners would be the responsibility of the transition group
- Assigning specific members to the proposed transition group
- Need to include language regarding the structure of the governance and transition group separate from the SPO
- Need agreement on which sector representation should be included in the transition group
- Governance and funding being considered by the transition group
- More efficient to work with members who are already included in HHTF
- Should the same group should address both Governance and the SPO
- Providing clarity to Staff while considering capacity
- Including representatives from Snuneymuxw First Nation, Island Health, the City, and industry leaders on the transition group
- Desire for the transition group to be small and nimble
- Appointing approximately five representatives from the HHTF members to the transition group

It was moved and seconded that the Health and Housing Task Force recommend that Council direct Staff to convene a transition group to establish the overall governance requirements as well as guide the implementation of the System Planner Organization and report back to Council. The motion carried unanimously.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

- (a) Correspondence from Myra Thomson, dated 2020-DEC-21, re: the homeless population displaced from Wesley Street encampment
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It was moved and seconded that the Health and Housing Task Force receive the correspondence from Myra Thomson, dated 2020-DEC-21, re: the homeless population displaced from Wesley Street encampment, for information. The motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Bonner thanked members for their participation and input.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 4:43 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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CORPORATE OFFICER